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10/025,758	12/26/2001	Hiroyuki Matsushima	217504US2	1667

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

CHOW, CHIH CHING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2192

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,758

Applicant(s)

MATSUSHIMA, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Chih-Ching Chow

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 16-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 16-28 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/6, 6/9, 2/11/04.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 6/28/05.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment dated September 26, 2005.
2. Per Applicants' request, claims 1, 3, 14, 16, 27, and 28 have been amended, claims 2, 15 canceled.
3. Claims 1, 3-14, 16-28 remain pending.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicants' amendment for Claims 1, 3, 14, 16, 27, and 28 have been fully considered respectfully by the examiner but they are not persuasive.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-62 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendments to the claims.
6. The examiner has reviewed the updated amendments, a new prior art has to be introduced. See 35 USC § 103 rejections (claims include the amendments) herein below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 26-21, and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,933,584 by Yoshio Maniwa (hereinafter "Maniwa"), in view of US2002/0010684 by Scott A. Moskowitz (hereinafter "Moskowitz").

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“Maniwa”), in view of US2002/0010684 by Scott A. Moskowitz (hereinafter “Moskowitz”).

CLAIM

1. An image formation system comprising:
an image formation apparatus connected to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section, wherein said image formation apparatus capable of providing one or more services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile; and

a server connected the network, said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus via said network, wherein said image formation apparatus includes:

a selection unit that selects a desired software component from a list software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;

an acquisition unit that acquires the software component acquired by said selection unit and authentication information from said server; and

a control unit that controls processing operation of the software component acquired by said acquisition unit based on the authentication information acquired by said acquisition unit, wherein

said control unit restricts the hardware resources available in said image formation apparatus for the acquired software component based on the authentication information.

Maniwa / Moskowitz

Maniwa teaches an image formation system connected to a network, which has one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section. See Maniwa FIG. 1, a printer, a facsimile, and image server machine are connected to a network, various servers are connected to the network. Also see column 1, lines. 8-13, “The present invention relates to a network system in which a plurality of workstations are connected through a network to each other, and more particularly to a network system for unified business used to build such systems as a printing system, a facsimile system, and an electronic circulation system making use of workstations already installed”. Also see Maniwa column 3, lines 9-13, “a plurality of workstations each with a **menu software** having a **function to select** (*via a selection unit*) and **call** (*via an acquisition unit*) a **job style file for users specific** (*defined in authentication information*) to a **self machine from job style files for individual users** (*based on the authentication information*) residing in the print server file, change the contents and again store the file in the print server software (*via a control unit*)”. For the newly amended item, Maniwa teaches all aspects of claim 1 except he doesn’t mention the ‘authentication information for the acquired software component’ feature, however, Moskowitz teaches it in an analogous. See Moskowitz paragraph 0008, “Electronic transactions pose special challenges for transaction parties. Some of

these challenges relate to the difficulty of providing to a prospective **acquirer** (e.g., a purchaser) of goods or services full, accurate, and verifiable information regarding the nature, value, **authenticity**, and other suitability-related characteristics of the product in question.”, and paragraph 0087, “No provision for establishing a trusted relationship between the buyer and the seller takes place absent some **authenticable exchange of additional value-adding information**. The present invention increases the likelihood of a **successful trusted transaction and extends beyond the ability to pay** (assuming no “identity theft” has occurred). *(adding the authentication information for acquired software component)*”. Further, see Moskowitz’s claim 1 and claim 19. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa’s multi-function peripheral (MFP) with the authentication feature taught by Moskowitz, for the purpose of providing to a prospective acquirer (e.g., a purchaser) of goods or services full, accurate, and verifiable information regarding the nature, value, authenticity (see Moskowitz paragraph 0008).

3. The image formation system according to claim 2 1, wherein

when authentication based on the authentication information has failed, said control unit specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, and when the authentication based on authentication information has succeeded,

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. Maniwa’s disclosure inquires service that is dedicated to different workstations, see column 30, lines. 17-29, “the image server software has a function to receive and store character data or graphic data to be circulated each transferred and supplied as input from a console, an auxiliary memory device (a floppy disk or a compact disk) or a

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said control unit specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

workstation, a function to make an inquiry as to **whether each workstation can display image data or not and types of possible display or print language** and store the result of the inquiry, and a filter function to convert image data to those which can be displayed or printed by each workstation or the printer, so that character/graphic data and image data can be treated similarly and the system cost can be **minimized.**" – the inquiry process is an 'authentication' based function.

4. The image formation system according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information includes information related to rights for using the respective resources by the software components, and said control unit decides whether the software components can use the resources based on the information related to using rights.

For the feature of claim 3 see claim 3 rejection. For the rest of claim 4 feature see claim 1 rejection.

5. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein said image formation apparatus further comprises a transmission unit that transmits configuration information for said image formation apparatus to said server when succeeding in authentication based on the authentication information, and

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. Maniwa teaches transmission of facsimile software when authentication condition succeeds, see column 7, lines 20-65.

said server organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the configuration information received from said image formation apparatus, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

6. The image formation system according to claim 5, wherein
said transmission unit transmits

Same as claim 5 rejection.

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identification information for identifying said image formation apparatus to said server, and

said server identifies one or more of configuration information and a contract form of said image formation apparatus based on the identification information received from said image formation apparatus, organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the identified configuration information and/or contract form, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

7. The image formation system according claim 1, wherein said server WWW server functioning the Internet, and

said image formation apparatus further provides a browser with which pages described in HTML are browsed.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest of claim 7 feature see Maniwa, column 1, lines 22-28, "a communication server in which communicating functions for communications with other network systems (or computer systems) through a wide area network (WWW) are concentrated", it's well known to the people in the art to use HTML implemented pages via browser in order to browse data in wide area network.

8. The image formation system according to claim 7, wherein the software component acquired by said acquisition unit operates as a plug-in for said browser.

For the feature of claim 7 see claim 7 rejection. Maniwa teaches all aspects of claim 8 except they don't mention the 'plug-in' feature, however, Moskowitz has showed this feature in an analogous prior art, in paragraph 0130, "Embodiments of the present invention may include a simple **Internet browser plug-in**, with complementary system software for the provider of 'information goods or services,' that would **identity, verify, authenticate,** enable transfer, enable copying or other

manipulations of the various primary value-added information and value-added components.”

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa’s multi-function peripheral (MFP) with the plug-in feature taught by Moskowitz, for the purpose of ensure the transaction is disclosed to be the use of highly-secure computer processing means for data identification, authentication (see Moskowitz Abstract, line 15).

10. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein, one vendor manages said server, and another vendor can register a software component to said server by paying a particular registration fee to the vendor that manages the server.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. Moskowitz claim 158, “wherein the device transacts according to at least one predetermination of at least an identity of the **vendor**, a plurality of conditions of the information transfer, a payment, and an identity of a separate but similar device.” And Moskowitz, paragraph 200, “the output device administration table is a data group made up of the printer type 2602, name 2603, and detailed information 1604 such as finishing options according to the type and installation states of the printers **registered** as the printing destinations of the document server 102 in the printer settings.” It’s a normal commercial behavior that for any **vendor** who wants to register to a server will have to be **charged**, vendors would be expected to pay either **advisement fee** or **registration fee**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa’s multi-function peripheral (MFP) with multiple vendors taught by Moskowitz, for the purpose of charging valued information (see Moskowitz’s

paragraph 83).

11. The image formation system according claim 1, wherein one vendor is charged for an advertisement fee of a software component each time said image formation apparatus acquires the software component from said server.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest of the claim 11 feature, see claim 10 rejection.

12. The image formation system according claim 11, wherein a server of the third-party vendor can be registered with said image formation apparatus as server allowed to be authenticated when third-party pays a particular registration fee.

For the feature of claim 11 see claim 11 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

13. The image formation system according to claim 12, wherein one or more of a charge for using said image formation apparatus and the registration fee paid by the third-party vendor is changed according to a range of resources available for said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 12 see claim 12 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

14. A software acquisition method comprising:
 connecting an image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section;
 providing one or more of services of a printer, copier, facsimile;
 providing a software component to said image formation apparatus from said server, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:
 selecting a desired software component from a list of software components accumulated said server and displayed on

Maniwa's disclosure is a software acquisition method. See claim 1 rejection.

said display section;

acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and

controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information,

wherein

the controlling step restricts the hardware resources available in said image formation apparatus for the acquired software component based on the authentication information.

16. The software acquisition method according to claim 15-14, wherein, when authentication based on authentication information has failed, the controlling step specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, when authentication based on the authentication information has succeeded, said controlling step specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

For the feature of claim 15 see claim 15 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 3 rejection.

17. The software acquisition method according to claim 16, wherein the authentication information includes information related to rights for using the respective resources by the software components, and the controlling step decides whether the software components can use the resources based on the information related to the using rights.

For the feature of claim 16 see claim 16 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 4 rejection.

18. The software acquisition method according claim 14, further comprising:

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the features see

transmitting configuration information for claim 5 rejection.
said image formation apparatus to said
server when said image formation
apparatus has succeeded in
authentication based on the authentication
information, wherein
said server organizes software
components executable on said image
formation apparatus based on the
configuration information received from
said image formation apparatus, and sends
the organized software components back to
said image formation apparatus.

19. The software acquisition method
according to claim 18, wherein
in the transmitting step, identification
information for identifying said image
formation apparatus transmitted to said
server, and
said server identifies one or more
configuration information and a contract
form of said image formation apparatus
based on the identification information
received from said image formation
apparatus, organizes software components
executable on said image formation
apparatus based on the identified
configuration information
and/or contract form, and sends the
organized software components back to
said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 18 see claim 18
rejection. For the rest of the features see
claim 6 rejection.

20. The software acquisition method
according to claim 14, wherein said server
Internet, and said image formation
apparatus has a browser with which pages
described HTML are browsed.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14
rejection. For the rest of the claim, see
claim 7 rejection.

21. The software acquisition method
according to claim 20, wherein the software

For the feature of claim 20 see claim 20
rejection. For the rest of the features see

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component acquired in the acquiring step operates as a plug-in for said browser.

claim 8 rejection.

23. The software acquisition method to claim 14, wherein, one vendor manages said server, and another vendor can register a software component to said server by paying a particular registration fee the vendor that manages the server.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

24. The software acquisition method according to claim 23, wherein the vendor is charged for an advertisement fee of a software component each time said image formation apparatus acquires the software component from said server.

For the feature of claim 23 see claim 23 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

25. The software acquisition method according to claim 24, wherein a server of the third-party vendor can be registered with said image formation apparatus as a server allowed to be authenticated when the third-party pays a particular registration fee.

For the feature of claim 24 see claim 24 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

26. The software acquisition method according to claim 25, wherein one or more of a charge for using said image formation apparatus and the registration fee paid by the third-party vendor changed according range resources available said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 25 see claim 25 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection. For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 7 rejection.

27. A computer readable recording medium for storing instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to realize a software acquisition method in an image formation system which connects an image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or

Same as claim 1 rejection.

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more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:

- selecting a desired software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;

- acquiring the selected software component and authentication information from said server; and

- controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information, wherein

- the controlling step restricts the hardware resources available in said image formation apparatus for the acquired software component based on the authentication information.

28. A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium for causing a computer to realize a software acquisition method in an image formation system which connects image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:

Same as claim 1 rejection.

selecting a desired software component from a list of software components accumulated said server and displayed on said display section;

acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and

controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information,
wherein

the controlling step restricts the hardware resources available in said image formation apparatus for the acquired software component based on the authentication information.

9. Claims 9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 by Yoshio Maniwa (hereinafter “Maniwa”), in view of US2002/0010684 by Scott A. Moskowitz (hereinafter “Moskowitz”), further in view of US2001/0044857 by Tuan Huu Pham et al. (hereinafter “Pham”).

CLAIM

9. The image formation system according claim 7, wherein said image formation apparatus further establishes a virtual machine that can execute CPU-independent, intermediate code, and the virtual machine executes the software components accumulated in said server in a form of intermediate code.

Maniwa / Moskowitz / Pham

Maniwa and Moskowitz teach all aspects of the applicant's claims but it does not specifically mention the ‘establishes a virtual machine’ feature. However, in Pham, paragraph 0030, “The client device 120, the client controller 125, the host device 135, and the host controller 140 each typically include one or more hardware components and/or software components. An example of a client device 120 or a host device 135 is a **general-purpose computer** (e.g., a personal computer) capable of responding to and executing instructions in a defined manner. Other examples include a **special-purpose computer**, a workstation, a server, a

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device, a component, other physical or **virtual equipment** or some combination thereof capable of responding to and executing instructions.” In addition, the ‘virtual machine’ and ‘intermediate code’ is a well-known concept in the art for JAVA™ programming environment.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa’s and Moskowitz’s disclosures of a multi-function peripheral with authentication information with virtual equipment further taught by Pham, for the purpose of installing computer software components on a general purpose client device (see Pham Abstract, 1st line).

22. The software acquisition method according to claim 20, wherein said image formation apparatus has a virtual machine that can execute CPU-independent intermediate code, and the virtual machine executes the software components accumulated in said server in a form of intermediate code.

For the feature of claim 20 see claim 20 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 9 rejection.

Conclusion

The following summarizes the status of the claims:

35 USC § 103 rejection: Claims 1, 3-14, 16-28

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Ching Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-3693. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chih-Ching Chow
Examiner
Art Unit 2192
November 23, 2005

cc



ANTHONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER